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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 64% Cloudy Sensex 81,508 | Nifty 24,619 | Gold 77,744 | Silver 95,800 | Dollar 84.86 | Euro 89.76 | GBP 108.43

TREATED RIGHT

BWSSB sets aside Rs 27 crore to set up infra to use treated wastewater for non-potable purposes

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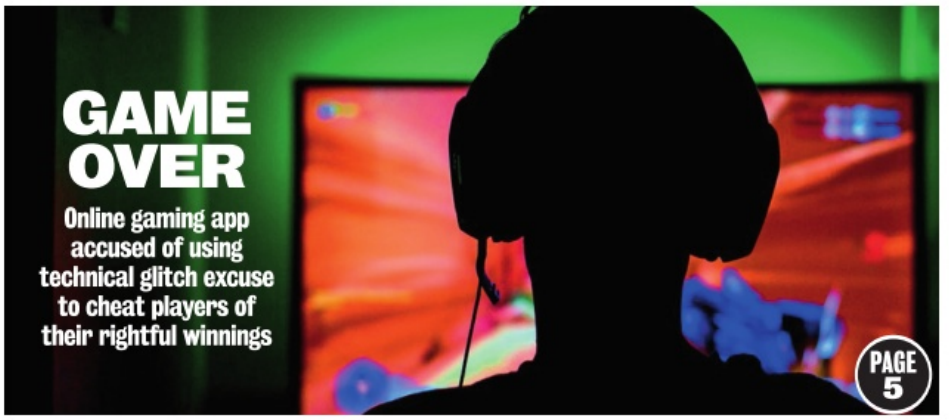

GAME OVER

Online gaming app accused of using technical glitch excuse to cheat players of their rightful winnings

PAGE 5

All 8 hearse vans belonging to BBMP are more than 16 years old and supposed to be scrapped; for past 15 days those who depend on these vehicles to transport deceased to their final resting place left in the lurch

TRULY THE LAST NAIL...

Centre where drivers have to wait doesn't have even basic amenities

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Here is shocking news for residents in Bengaluru East, who depend on the hearse vans owned by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for the last journey of their near and dear ones. All these years, the BBMP used to collect Rs 30 to Rs 60 (excluding coffee or tea expenses for the drivers of the hearses) from those who booked the service to transport the mortal remains of the deceased to the nearest burial ground or crematorium.

There are eight hearse vans to cater to the needs of people in Bengaluru East and surrounding areas. These vans are parked at Halasuru Referral Hospital premises on Cambridge Road near Halasuru Police Station. With all the vans being more than 16 years old, the BBMP officials have stopped its services as these vehicles are supposed to be scrapped as per the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

"We have not operated the hearse vans for the last 15 days as these vans are yet to be insured and get fitness certificates.

We advised the public to contact the Central Office for the vans because we are not supposed to take them as their insurance and fitness certificates are already expired," said a driver on the condition of anonymity.

This is a big blow for those who depend on these services as it is more economical. For instance, one has to pay Rs 2,000 to hire a private hearse van to transport a body

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

KAUSHIK JN

> **"We advised the public to contact the Central Office for the vans because we are not supposed to take them out as their insurance and fitness certificates have already expired**
>
> — Hearse driver

A just ask: Respect for cyclists

After being manhandled by bus driver, cyclist calls for harmonious use of road, rather than confrontational tactics

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After allegedly being intimidated by a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus driver, a cyclist has urged more understanding towards cyclists, rather than any legal action. He has termed the movement that seeks to spread awareness on the vital role cyclists play on the roads 'Cyclegiri'. Pramod, the cyclist, had a confrontation with the driver near Leela Palace last Thursday.

He said he was pedalling along the extreme left of the road around 1 pm, when the BMTC bus abruptly overtook him and stopped after veering to the left, blocking his path. "I maneuvered around the bus, only to hear the driver hurling abuse at me and making an obscene gesture. I returned the same gesture and moved ahead," he said.

A few metres beyond the HAL Airport entrance, Pramod encountered what he initially thought was another bus. It swerved dangerously close to him, nearly causing a collision. Near the HAL underpass, the bus halted abruptly, and the driver, accompanied by the conductor, stepped

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Hindustani tunes

Guru Bandhu – Bharathi Prathap and Manohar Patwardhan, a Hindustani Music performance by this teacher-student duo. 'Guru Bandhu' is part of a series of events curated by BLR Hubba, a festival that celebrates the arts, culture, heritage, spaces and stories of Bengaluru.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road
When: December 10, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

02 Listen on

Poetry session with Nishita on Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace. She is better known by her pen name, 'Gargle in Grey' through which she shares her poetry, short essays etc.
Where: Urban Solace
When: December 10, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

03 Festive hymns

The Indian Church of Christ presents "MAHIME" Christmas Fest, a festive celebration of joy, togetherness, and the true spirit of Christmas.
Where: Campus Crusade
When: December 15, 12 pm onwards

04 Dance debut

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of Smt. Govardhani Ethirajan, a disciple of the renowned Acharya Raksha Karthik.
Where: Yuvapatha, Bengaluru. When: December 14, 5 pm onwards

05 German bakes

Exclusive pop-up of Germany's authentic bakes from Bäcker & Charlie's mouthwatering German treats like gooey Berliners, soft pretzels, and sandwiches at BLR Brewing Co.
Where: BLR Brewing Co, Whitefield
When: December 14 & 15

State is steadily pumping up its oxygen supply

Karnataka expands its oxygen infrastructure by installing 243 Pressure Swing Adsorption oxygen plants to ensure reliable supply for healthcare demands

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Karnataka has significantly expanded its oxygen infrastructure following the severe shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic, stated Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday.

While speaking at the Legislative Council in Belagavi, Rao stated that, during the height of the crisis, the lack of adequate oxygen supply led to widespread suffering, stressing the need for a robust and decentralised oxygen production system. Before the pandemic, the state relied entirely on oxygen cylinders to meet medical oxygen requirements, with no Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants in operation. The pandemic served as a wake-up call, and since then, a total of 243 PSA oxygen plants have been installed across the state, ensuring a reliable oxygen supply.

"These plants, set up under various initiatives, now produce a combined 1,33,797 litres per minute (LPM) of oxygen. Among these, 50 plants were funded by the PM CARES initiative, 31 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, 40 through state efforts, 110 under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and the remaining through district efforts, the Railway Board, the Ministry of Coal, and foreign aid. The plants have varying capacities, ranging from 500 LPM to 2,000 LPM, ensuring both flexibility and scalability in oxygen production," he said.

File photo of PSA plant at a hospital in Indiranagar, Bengaluru

In Bengaluru Urban district, several government hospitals have been equipped with these PSA plants, making oxygen readily available. Notable installations include KC General Hospital, Sir CV Raman Hospital, Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical Research Institute, Bangalore Medical College, Divisional Railway Hospital in Okalipuram, and ESIC Hospital in Rajajinagar. Other facilities such as general hospitals in KR Puram, Yelahanka, Jayanagar, Anekal, and Attibele, along with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, have also benefitted from these developments, he said.

"Apart from oxygen plants, the state also enhanced ventilator support. Before the pandemic, Karnataka had only 270 ventilator-equipped beds. During the Covid-19 waves, this number was increased to 2,871," Rao added.

Action against illegal pharmacies

Rao also said that the Karnataka government was taking strict action against unauthorised pharmacies operating without valid licenses. According to him, the state currently has 37,130 private pharmacies, along with seven Jana Bazaar outlets, 23 Jana Sanjeevini centres, and 178 Jan Aushadhi centres operating within government hospital premises.

"During routine inspections in 2023-24, the department suspended 1,245 licenses and cancelled 292 for violating regulations. Officials are monitoring the stock and sale of narcotic drugs and conducting regular inspections of private pharmacies. In cases of violations, stringent action is being taken. Additionally, the department conducts a three-day special inspection annually to curb the misuse of narcotic substances, taking action against violators," Rao said, adding that of the 112 sanctioned posts for drug inspectors, only eight positions are currently filled. A proposal to fill 83 vacant posts has been submitted to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). However, recruitment is pending due to a related case in the Supreme Court, which will be resolved before appointments are made.

> **These PSA oxygen plants have varying capacities, ranging from 500 LPM to 2,000 LPM, ensuring both flexibility & scalability in oxygen production**
> – Dinesh Gundu Rao, Health & Family Welfare Minister

He further stressed that drug manufacturers are required to ensure the quality of medicines before supplying them to the market, in compliance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Department officials are also monitoring the quality of medicines available in the market. Samples from pharmacies, nursing homes, hospitals, and clinics are regularly collected and sent to the state drug testing laboratory for quality checks, ensuring that only safe and approved medicines are available to the public.

10% govt job quota: Ex-servicemen call out empty promises

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Ex-servicemen from Karnataka have decided to return their medals if the state government fails to provide jobs for them as per the norms. The state government has reserved 10 per cent of jobs in all groups but is not implementing it, according to the Akhila Karnataka Ex-Servicemen Association.

The ex-servicemen have decided to stage a protest in Belagavi on Thursday in support of their long-pending demands. The 10-day Assembly session in Belagavi began on Monday.

"Thousands of ex-servicemen will stage a protest on Thursday to draw the attention of lawmakers. We have also decided to return medals to the President of India if the state government fails to meet our demands," said Akhila Karnataka Ex-Servicemen Association State President Dr Shivanna NK.

Shivanna said the state government has reserved 10 per cent of government jobs for ex-servicemen. However, Karnataka State Public Service Commission (KPSC). Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) and other government organisations have failed to implement the 10 per cent reservation, in turn depriving ex-servicemen of government jobs.

Demands on land/ shelter allotment & tax relief

He demanded the government to allocate funds for the construction of Sainik Bhavans in cities where more ex-servicemen are residing. "The state government has been issuing orders for allotting shelters and land for ex-servicemen, but the local bodies are not implementing those orders. Their negligence and apathy have become a major hurdle for ex-servicemen to avail themselves of shelter or land from the government," Shivanna said.

Akhila Karnataka Ex-Servicemen Association president Dr Shivana, & other members demanded 10% reservation for children of ex-servicemen in professional courses in February this year

"The Central government has exempted tax on buildings, land owned by ex-servicemen and goods purchased at Canteen Stores Department (CSD), but the State government has been collecting 50 per cent of property tax from the ex-servicemen. We demand 100 per cent tax relief from the state government," he said, adding that the state government has failed to select ex-servicemen for the Rajyotsava Award this year.

Call for welfare schemes

Demanding the state government to implement welfare schemes for the ex-servicemen, Chaya Lalithesh, a widow, has said that she has been receiving Rs 15,000 towards family pension. "I am a homemaker. I have two children. I am staying in a rented house. It has become a tough task for me to survive with a Rs 15,000 family pension in a city like Bangalore," she said.

Unmasking 'digital arrest' con

Cops urge public to stay informed, alert to unsolicited calls or texts & emphasise timely reporting of such crimes

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'There are more than 100 'digital arrest' cases in India, but only a few report such incidents'

In an alarming evolution of cybercrime, fraudsters are deploying a chilling tactic termed "digital arrest," turning digital spaces into virtual prisons. It is to be noted that no legitimate law enforcement has provision to issue arrest warrants via digital communication. Police are urging the public to stay informed, avoid sharing personal details online, and be wary of unsolicited calls or messages, especially those claiming to represent official agencies.

Modus operandi of digital arrest

At a recent Suraksha program on women's safety, a Kumaraswamy Layout Police official highlighted the increasing prevalence of cybercrimes like digital arrest, sextortion, and fraudulent loan apps. Criminals impersonate law enforcement officers, sending victims fake arrest warrants via messages. They then conduct video calls over Skype, often set against a backdrop designed to resemble a police station or government office. During these calls, they coerce victims, especially women, into compromising actions, such as undressing, by threatening arrest. The criminals use this leverage to demand large sums of money, transferred to their accounts, a senior police official explained.

For instance, there was a case where a woman lawyer in Bengaluru lost Rs 14.57 lakh to cybercriminals after falling victim to a sophisticated scam. According to her complaint, the fraudsters claimed a parcel in her name containing narcotics had been intercepted. They suggested it might be a case of identity theft and urged her to contact the cybercrime team in Mumbai. Under the pretext of conducting "narcotics tests," the scammers coerced her into stripping and posing on camera, adding to the traumatic ordeal.

Police officials told BM that many women often don't report such incidents. "There are more than 100 such cases in India, but only a few report such incidents. Girls usually hesitate to give a complaint; that's the main reason behind cybercriminals targeting women victims; they aim for 1000 members, and at least 20 of them will get fooled."

In a recent case, a Bengaluru-based techie from Uttar Pradesh lost Rs 25 lakh—her savings from the past three years—after falling prey to cybercriminals posing as officials from Delhi's Cyber Crime Division. She was duped with a call by scammers claiming her Aadhaar-linked bank account had been used to transfer Rs 68 lakh, allegedly connected to a kidnapping and organ trafficking case involving 17 children.

In another incident, a 27-year-old TC Palya resident fell victim to fraudsters impersonating officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The scammers alleged that a money laundering case had been registered in Mumbai against her and insisted she record a statement via a WhatsApp video call. Over the next two days, she endured relentless cyberbullying. She later noticed unauthorised access attempts on her mobile phone and reported the matter to the cybercrime police.

What must you do?

The police officials urge the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the National Cyber Crime Helpline (1930) or the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in) at the earliest opportunity. Quick reporting, often within the "Golden Hour" of the scam, significantly increases the chances of freezing the criminals' accounts and tracing the stolen money. Victims should also file formal complaints at their local police stations to initiate thorough investigations.

> **"If you encounter such suspicious incidents, report to helpline (1930) or at cybercrime.gov.in at earliest opportunity**
> –Police

A police official emphasised the importance of trusting the National Cyber Crime Helpline (1930) and local law enforcement to tackle cyber fraud effectively. Highlighting the recovery rates, the official stated, "There has been a 90% recovery of money in many cases, while in some instances, recovery ranges from 70% to 20%. Regardless of the amount lost, it is crucial to report the crime and file a complaint to increase the chances of recovering the funds."

NO2 level report rings alarm bells, experts warn of health issues

After a Greenpeace study conducted on air quality data of 11 air quality monitoring stations revealed that Bengaluru has high levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in its air, experts have warned that this can especially be a problem for those with existing health conditions.

BM's report on Dec 5, 2024

"In patients with asthma and pre-existing medical conditions related to lungs, high levels of NO2 can be dangerous as it irritates the airway. In the case of children and the elderly with lung-related issues, higher levels of this gas can exacerbate their situation," said a city-based health expert.

Experts say NO2 is a near-invisible toxic gas that is closely linked to traffic and fuel burning that is common in urban areas. Higher levels of NO2 can potentially expose citizens to various health issues.

The study titled 'Beyond North India: NO2 Pollution and Health Risks in Seven Major Indian Cities' also shows that the air quality monitoring stations that exceeded WHO health guidelines are also located within 500 meters of five schools, indicating that young students are exposed to NO2 pollution and their health may be at risk.

Five-year trend analysis

The 5-year trend analysis of NO2 found that the city average at monitoring sites is decreasing, but only four of the 10 stations included in the trend analysis have a significant improving trend, while three stations have significant worsening trends. "...As cities change and develop, air quality in some areas will worsen and in others, it might improve. However, satellite observations of NO2 in the atmosphere over Bengaluru from 2019-2023 also suggest that NO2 pollution across the city as a whole is increasing," noted the study.

Indian scenario

Apart from Bengaluru, the study also looked at levels of NO2 in Jaipur, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Chennai and found that 89% of monitoring stations in the seven cities (72 out of 81) breached health-based guidelines for annual concentrations of this harmful gas. **— Garima Prasher**

Double murder at factory in Yelahanka

A double murder was reported under the Yelahanka New Town police station limits on Monday when two individuals were found dead at a factory premises.

The deceased have been identified as Soori (21), a driver, and his friend Vikram (33), a security guard. According to the police, the bodies were found by a boy who had gone there to serve them tea, who later alerted the police. Investigations revealed that the duo had invited their friends for a party and had an argument, which probably might have led to the murder. The police also noted that the men were possibly drunk.

The police are now trying to trace down the suspects, and further investigations are underway. **— BMB**

Cops arrest minor riding under influence

Shivajinagar Traffic Police arrested a minor boy who was riding a two-wheeler in a reckless manner on Venkataswamy Naidu Road.

The vehicle was promptly confiscated, and a case was registered against both the owner and the rider. Concerned for the rider's condition, officers sent him to a nearby hospital for medical evaluation. A blood test conducted by the hospital confirmed that the boy had consumed drugs prior to riding the vehicle.

As per the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, a FIR was filed against the minor under Juvenile Justice Act and NDPS Act. The boy was subsequently handed over to the Commercial Street Police Station for further investigation and legal action. **— BMB**

Woman nabbed after battering man to death

Dobbaspete police have arrested a 45-year-old woman on Monday for killing a man by smashing his head with a stone while he was sleeping. The incident occurred near the Udaneshwara Temple on Saturday night.

The victim, identified as Narsimamurthy, a daily wage labourer, succumbed to his injuries at the scene. According to the police, around 8:30 pm, Uma Devi, the accused, approached Narsimamurthy, who was sleeping near the temple, and asked for space to sleep. A heated argument ensued, prompting her to leave the area. She returned moments later and attacked him with a stone, killing him instantly.

The victim's body was sent for postmortem. Police revealed that the accused previously assaulted her father, causing serious injuries to his eye. Both Devi and Narsimamurthy were homeless and without stable employment. Authorities suspect the murder was triggered by a trivial argument, and investigations are ongoing to determine further details. **— BMB**

Not a drop wasted: BWSSB plans to use treated water

Agency sets aside Rs 27 crore to set up infra to use wastewater for non-potable uses

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There may be no water scarcity for this financial year as reservoirs have reached the brim level. However, following last year's experience, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has taken steps to promote the use of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes. The initiative includes supplying treated water to industrial areas through dedicated pipelines, reducing reliance on Cauvery water for non-essential uses. For this purpose, the board has allocated Rs 27 crore to establish the necessary infrastructure.

An official said, "Currently, the city receives 2,225 MLD (million litres per day) of drinking water from the Cauvery, located 100 kilometres away. Of this, nearly 80% turns into wastewater. Despite treatment at 33 sewage treatment plants (STPs) with a combined capacity of 1,212 MLD, only about 750 MLD of treated water is reused, while the rest flows back into drains. Treated water has already been mandated for activities like construction and landscaping. However, there has been limited uptake, leading to the diversion of treated water to fill lakes in regions such as Kolar and Chikkaballapur."

To enhance reuse, the BWSSB is planning a pipeline network to supply treated water to industrial zones. This includes a dedicated pipeline system for the Peenya Industrial Area, home to 13,000 micro and small industries. Following discussions with industrial representatives, the board assured the supply of high-quality treated water. A detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared and submitted to the state government for approval.

India's largest water treatment plant at Torekadanahalli (TK Halli) in Mandya district (File photo)

Key features of initiative

Officials said that the project will initially draw 4 MLD of treated water from the 40 MLD Nagasandra STP. A separate storage tank will be constructed near the Peenya to facilitate distribution. Currently, most industries in the area are connected to the Cauvery water supply. The new infrastructure will include separate pipelines for treated water alongside the existing supply lines. "This initiative aligns with long-term goals of water conservation and sustainable management by reducing the use of potable Cauvery water for non-drinking purposes," said the official. Industrial representatives have expressed optimism about the project, stressing the need for public awareness and certification to reassure industries about the safety of treated water. The estimated cost of Rs 27 crore includes provisions for repairing roads dug up for pipeline installation. The project is expected to commence promptly upon receiving government approval.

> "Initiative aligns with long-term goals of sustainable management by reducing the use of potable Cauvery water for non-drinking purposes
> –Official

Treated water usage statistics

Bengaluru generates 1,440 MLD of wastewater daily, of which 1,212 MLD is treated. However, only 750 MLD is reused, with 520 MLD diverted to fill lakes in Kolar and Chikkaballapur, while the rest serve institutions via tankers and pipelines. With this initiative, the Water Board aims to boost reuse and reduce wastage.

Citizens seek 'basic amenities, not luxury'

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Over 50,000 families residing in Kithaganur and Halehalli Panchayat limits, located on the outskirts of the Mahadevapura Zone in Bengaluru, have come together to demand urgent civic interventions. The KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation has addressed an open letter to the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO), with copies sent to key officials, including local MLAs (Members of Legislative Assembly), MPs (Members of Parliament), ministers, and civic authorities like BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board), and BESCOM (Bangalore Electric Supply Company Limited).

The letter highlights 16 pressing issues that residents claim have been neglected for years despite repeated appeals. VP Krishna, the Founder of the Federation, emphasised the urgency of these demands, stating, "Our daily lives are severely disrupted due to poor infrastructure and lack of basic amenities. It's time the authorities take responsibility and act on these long-pending issues."

One of the primary concerns raised by the residents is the dire state of roads across the Kithaganuru and Halehalli limits. The roads are riddled with potholes, posing a constant risk of accidents, and residents demanded immediate repairs to ensure safe commuting.

The lack of an online e-Khata service has also been a significant hurdle for property owners. Residents pointed out that the service has been suspended for over a decade, leaving many properties in limbo.

Kithaganur, Halehalli residents write open letter to officials

Other critical demands include daily garbage collection, better street lighting, a stormwater drainage system, and access to the Cauvery water supply. The letter also calls for improved public facilities, such as a police station, a post office, a public health centre, and BMTC bus services to connect the area to metro stations and other parts of the city.

Education and recreation were also key points in the letter. The residents urged the government to strengthen local government schools by adding classrooms and approving higher classes up to the 10th standard. They also demanded the establishment of a sports arena and public park for community activities.

The federation has requested that public grievance meetings be held every third Saturday to address residents' concerns directly. "We are not asking for luxury but for basic amenities to lead a dignified life," added a resident.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

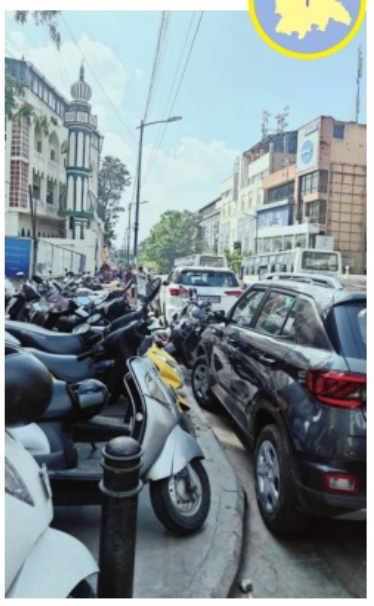
Mosquito & sewage menace

Hesaraghatta

Residents of AGB Layout are facing a severe mosquito menace, especially along the walkways where rainwater and sewage overflow during downpours, making it difficult for walkers.

Weekend crisis

Richmond Road



Every Friday, cars and two-wheelers completely occupy both the footpath and the main road on Richmond Road, increasing risks for pedestrians and other road users.

Broken road

Koramangala

The condition of Koramangala's 100 Feet Road is deteriorating, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Prosecution planted evidence against me: Darshan tells HC

In a hearing at the Karnataka High Court on Monday, actor Darshan Thoogudeepa's defence claimed that the prosecution had fabricated all evidence against him in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Senior Advocate CV Nagesh, representing Darshan, presented arguments before Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, highlighting inconsistencies in the investigation timeline, including delays in witness statements, post-mortem procedures and evidence collection from the crime scene.

Nagesh contested the prosecution's murder classification, noting that the deceased had sustained only one bleeding injury. He stated that the allegations regarding blood from the deceased's testicles and the presence of blood on the garments of all 14 accused persons are fabricated.

Nagesh alleged that these claims stem from a physician's testimony provided to the investigating officer approximately two and a half months following the post-mortem examination. Furthermore, he claimed that the prosecution has manufactured this purported evidence against Darshan and asserted that such insufficient evidence should not prevent the court from granting bail.

Responding to accusations of misusing court sympathy, Nagesh clarified that medical procedures couldn't be expedited merely due to bail period constraints.

The court was considering bail applications from Darshan, Pavithra Gowda, and other co-accused. Special Public Prosecutor P Prasanna Kumar argued for Section 302 (murder) charges, citing 39 serious injuries, 17 rib fractures, and other severe trauma to the deceased. Kumar opposed bail, citing substantial evidence, including digital footprints, FSL reports, and witness accounts.

Justice Shetty reserved judgement whilst maintaining Darshan's interim medical bail. Darshan's arrest occurred on June 11, with interim bail granted on October 30 for six weeks on medical grounds.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court on Monday extended Darshan's interim bail on medical grounds till the next date of hearing.

Darshan's counsel Nagesh made submission to the court requesting extension of the bail on medical grounds. Darshan's interim bail was ending on December 11.

Nagesh further submitted to the court that the date of surgery for actor Darshan had been fixed for December 11 and sought extension of the medical bail. Considering the plea, the court has granted an extension of the bail until the next hearing. **BMB**

Warning: This seems to be a losing game

Man files complaint against online gaming app, alleging it has been using tech glitch excuse to defraud its users

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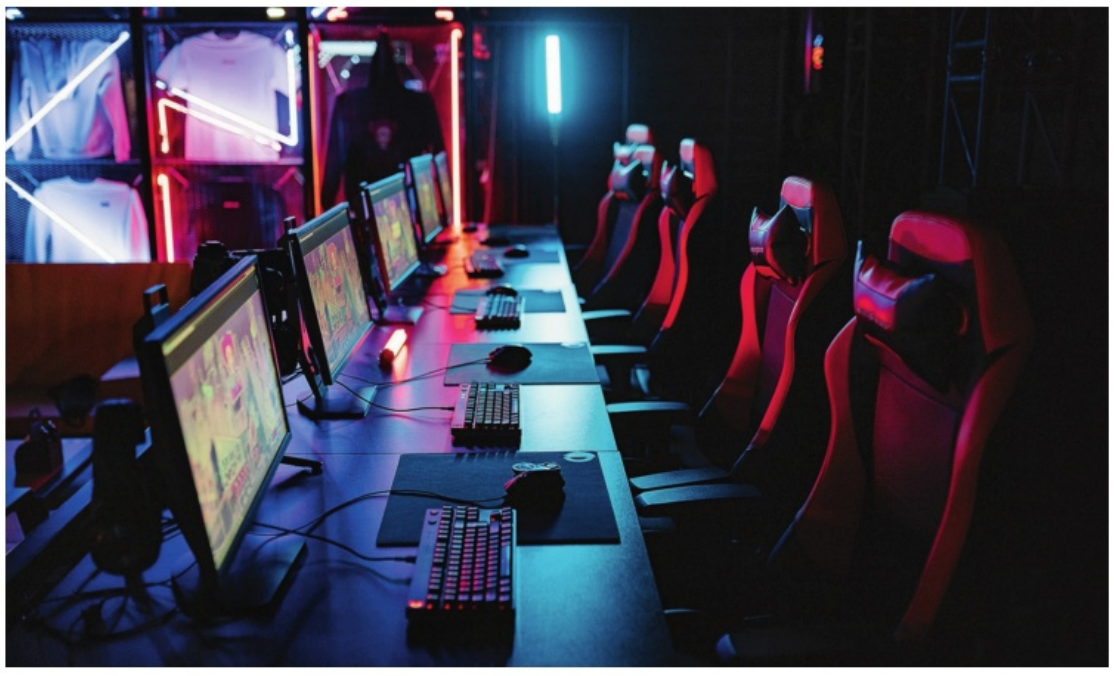

Online game players have alleged that many of these websites are fraud disguised as entertainment. Even as problems such as online gaming addiction and monetary losses exist, now it has emerged that these apps operate fraudulently claiming technical glitches, to deprive users of their winnings.

In a recent case, a 33-year-old private firm employee filed a complaint against gaming apps Pocket52 and Gamerskart, accusing them of exploiting a "glitch" to swindle over Rs 3 crore since April 2023. The victim alleges that the platform deliberately prevents big wins, further eroding trust. The Central Division Cyber Crime Police have booked the case under cheating and IT Act provisions, launching an investigation into these shocking claims.

Fraud not glitch

Srinivas (name changed) in his complaint has alleged that Pocket52 has consistently manipulated gaming outcomes. He alleged that players like him would win smaller amounts to be encouraged and to continue to participate, only to incur significant losses in larger bets. The gaming app's customer support dismissed these patterns as mere 'glitches', offering no satisfactory explanation.

"Online gaming comes with risks. Most importantly, one must read and understand terms & conditions of app or web app. It is best to avoid investment when there are unacceptable risks involved in online

Manipulative practice

The victim also highlights how Pocket52's removed the "hand history" feature, which prevents users from reviewing past games. Requests for data on his gaming stats, including the number of games played, won, or lost, were denied, with the platform claiming no such reporting feature existed. This lack of transparency further supported allegations of unethical practices.

Adding to the concerns, Pocket52 reportedly urged players to gamble on smaller tables to "increase chances of winning", indirectly confirming manipulation of outcomes based on table size. Regular players repeatedly winning large sums raised suspicions of collusion and deliberate manipulation.

The complaint highlighted predatory tactics used by the gaming platform. Pocket52 lacked responsible gaming features like deposit or time limits and unfairly restricted withdrawals. They allegedly added free money to inactive accounts to tempt users back into gambling, taking advantage of their weaknesses.

The victim also noticed collusion among players, where some worked together to win big, exposing the platform's unethical practices.

Experts believe that some online gambling platforms change their program codes to make sure players can never win. These changes give the platform an unfair advantage, leaving players with no chance to make a profit.

"Online gaming comes with risks. First and foremost, the terms and conditions of the app or web app needs to be read and understood. Next, the risks associated with online gaming including potential financial fraud, personal data breaches and addiction needs to be considered. It is best to avoid investment when there are unacceptable risks involved in online gaming," Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer told BM.

No accountability

In December 2023, Pocket52 acknowledged the presence of fraudulent activities on its platform after numerous user complaints. However, the platform declined to reveal the full scope of the issue, leaving it unclear whether the fraud involved bots or real players.

Additionally, no measures were taken to compensate users for their losses. The police have sought additional details from the victim to investigate the case further.

Man dies by suicide, leaves 40-page death note

A man died by suicide at his home in an upscale locality of Manjunatha Layout, the police said on Monday, adding that he also left behind an over 40-page suicide note.

According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Atul Subhash, who hails from Uttar Pradesh. An initial investigation by the police revealed that Atul Subhash's wife had filed a case against him in Uttar Pradesh.

It is being suspected that he ended his life due to marital discord. Atul was a member of the "Save Indian Family Foundation," an NGO that provides 'assistance to victims of false cases filed by spouses'.

The police said that he had also created a "time-table" for two days to commit suicide.

In his suicide note, Atul outlined specific actions to be taken before dying under three headings. The first heading read, "what should be done before dying", in which he wrote: "Take a bath, open the windows and gate lock, recite the name of Lord Shiva 100 times, keep the keys of the car and bike on the fridge, and place the note on the table."

He also mentioned that "the suicide note should be sent to the High Court, Supreme Court, office, and family". He concluded by writing, "one should destroy self".

In the second heading, "what should be done one day earlier", Atul 'suggested' clearing all financial matters, completing all communication and office work, and finalising legal issues. He suggested packing essential documents and preparing for the final day.

In the third section, titled "the final day", Atul said on that very day, a 'video note' should be uploaded. He mentioned erasing fingerprints and face recognition data from mobile phones, returning the laptop, charger, and ID to the office, and uploading a scanned copy of the 'death note'. He mentioned ensuring all payments were completed before taking the final step.

According to police reports, Atul had hung a placard that read "Justice is Due". An official said that further investigation into the matter is underway. **-IANS**

Penalty sword has left quarries crushed

Opposing OTS scheme that aims to collect Rs 6,105 crore, owners plan strike & shutdown

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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Owners want govt to cancel OTS scheme and collect only Rs 5 lakh as a penalty for per hectare

Thousands of quarries and stone-crushing units are set to be shut down next month if the state government fails to roll back the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme approved by the State Cabinet a few days ago. The Cabinet's decision is aimed at collecting the pending penalty amounting to Rs 6,105 crore from the miners in the state.

"The proposed OTS scheme will be a death knell for quarry owners and the owners of stone-crushing units. We oppose the OTS scheme. We have already submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Mines and Geology. The minister promised to take us into confidence while deciding on collecting the pending penalties from quarry owners but did not inform us while deciding to introduce the OTS scheme," said D Siddaraju, president, Union of Karnataka Quarry & Stone Crusher Owners' Association.

Siddaraju said that thousands of trucks and lakhs of people depend on quarries and stone-crushing units for livelihood, and the state government has been receiving royalty from miners. "We want the state government to cancel the OTS scheme and collect only Rs 5 lakh as a penalty for per hectare of a quarry. If the state government fails to withdraw the OTS scheme, we will shut down quarries and stone-crushing units across the state. We will not allow trucks to carry construction material from neighbouring states into Karnataka. We will decide on the date of shutdown shortly," he said, adding that three quarry owners have already committed suicide due to harassment from mines and geology department officials who demanded they pay a huge penalty.

> **"We will not allow trucks to carry construction material from neighbouring states into Karnataka. We will soon decide the shutdown** –Siddaraju, Union

Around 3,350 quarries and 2,500 stone-crushing units are being operated across the state.

Demanding the state government to extend the quarry lease to 30 years from the existing 10 years, Umashankar, treasurer, Union of Karnataka Quarry & Stone Crusher Owners' Association, said the respective Deputy Commissioners are not extending the lease of the land to 30 years. "A quarry owner or stone-crushing unit owner has to invest a lot of money on machinery. It will benefit quarry owners and stone-crushing unit owners if the lease period is extended to 30 years," he said.

The other demands are to extend the lease period for quarries from the existing 30 years to 50 years and for stone crushing units to 50 years, stop fixing electricity bills unscientifically for stone crushing units, and exempt royalty for quarry owners who operate quarries on their own land.

Poultry farms buying grains don't need licence: HC

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The Karnataka High Court has ruled that poultry farms purchasing foodgrains to feed their birds do not require a licence under the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1966, as such purchases do not constitute marketing or commercial trading activities.

The court clarified that the APMC Act's licencing requirements are meant to regulate agricultural produce trade, not purchases for personal agricultural purposes like feeding poultry. The court emphasised that poultry farms' operations do not involve reselling or commercial distribution of foodgrains, making the licence requirement incorrect. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum issued this ruling whilst nullifying notices sent by APMC officials to Sri Lakshmi Poultry Complex in Hagaribommanahalli, Ballari district, and Kittur Chennamma Poultry Farm, Kittur, Belagavi district. These notices had demanded the farms obtain APMC licences and submit their trade accounts.

The court noted that poultry farming is recognised as an agricultural activity under the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, supported by judicial precedents. It clarified that the APMC Act applies to entities engaged in buying and selling agricultural products within regulated markets, such as traders and commission agents involved in commercial activities.

The court determined that since these poultry farms neither operate as traders, processors, or warehousemen, nor participate in commercial marketing activities in regulated markets, authorities cannot mandate them to obtain APMC licences. The farms purchase foodgrains solely for feeding their birds, not for commercial distribution. Additionally, the court highlighted that Section 8(b)(ii) of the APMC Act specifically exempts purchases for domestic consumption, which extends to agricultural uses like poultry feeding. The court deemed the officials' insistence on licencing as unlawful overreach and an abuse of power.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

SUV issues persist at Mandalpatti tampering visitors' experiences

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Mandalpatti is one of the favourite tourist destinations for Bengalureans. However, as personal vehicles are not allowed till the destination, tourists have no other option but to depend on SUVs to reach the location. Now both visitors and locals regularly encounter disruptions and inconveniences at the SUV stand. Although permits have been issued, problems among the SUV drivers persist, leading to conflicts and even physical altercations. Locals are now urging the Kodagu district administration to step in and address the situation.

Sources said that to curb unauthorised rental operations, private vehicles were barred from transporting tourists to Mandalpatti, allowing only yellow-boarded SUVs with permits. Despite this, longstanding issues among drivers remain, resulting in recent clashes between two groups of SUV drivers. The Madikeri Rural Police have registered cases against two individuals following a recent scuffle. The local Gram Panchayat has not approved the SUV stand, citing inconveniences for the public. In response, the Panchayat has installed a sign prohibiting SUV trips from the area, urging the district administration to support their decision.

Personal vehicles not allowed till destination, only SUVs allowed

Residents and tourists have raised concerns about rash driving by some drivers, particularly during peak tourist times, as well as alleged price hikes and rude behaviour. In response, the police recently held a meeting with all SUV drivers, advising them to follow safety rules, avoid obstructing tourists who wish to travel independently, refrain from overcharging, and treat passengers with respect.

Madikeri DySP S Mahesh Kumar said, "We have advised SUV drivers not to obstruct tourists who prefer to travel in their own vehicles, avoid overcharging, and be courteous to passengers. Any violations or harassment complaints will be addressed seriously." Former Panchayat president Ayyappa added that SUV drivers often behave arrogantly with tourists and charge extra fees. Additionally, he noted frequent reports of driver conflicts that sometimes escalate into physical altercations.

Mandalpatti, which is nestled amidst picturesque hills in Kodagu district, shot into fame after ace director Yogaraj Bhat shot for his movie Gaalipata under the name Mugilupete. The visitors will be barred from stopping in the middle of the road or trekking the nearby hills. To stop littering the place, the forest department has decided to levy a refundable deposit at the entry where people carrying water bottles or other plastic items have to first give a declaration and then pay the deposit amount, following which they will be allowed, and upon their return, they should produce a proof of bringing all their baggage and then claim the deposit amount.

Rs 13.51 cr penalty imposed on ineligible BPL cardholders

In ongoing 2024-25 fiscal year, 213 FIRs registered and goods worth Rs 2.68 crore seized

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The Food and Civil Supplies Department has imposed a penalty of Rs 13.51 crore from 3,35,463 ineligible priority ration cardholders identified across the state between January 2021 and May 2023. The imposition aims to offset financial losses incurred due to unauthorised benefits availed by these individuals. This action follows a detailed verification process to identify and address irregularities in the distribution of ration cards, ensuring that subsidies and benefits reach eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking at the Legislative Council, Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa said, "The state government is intensifying its crackdown on illegal ration distribution, with legal action being taken against individuals found guilty, subject to court orders. The government is actively working to curb the illegal sale of ration rice in open markets. In cases where the diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) supplies is detected, immediate raids are conducted, and cases are registered under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Confiscated stocks are seized, auctioned, and proceeds are deposited into the government treasury. In the ongoing 2024-25 fiscal year, 213 FIRs have been registered, resulting in the seizure of goods worth Rs 2.68 crore and the arrest of 238 individuals involved in illegal activities. To ensure proper monitoring and supervision, nodal officers have been appointed at the divisional level by the department."

Minister Muniyappa also mentioned that several beneficiaries who were previously eligible for priority ration cards have now moved above the poverty line. Consequently, these priority cards are being converted into non-priority ration cards. Details of government employees, income tax payers, and GST contributors are being obtained through the family database to impose penalties on those misusing the system. On the technology front, the minister acknowledged that the existing server used by the Food Department is outdated. Migration of the food management software from the National Informatics Centre to Karnataka State Data Centre is in its final stages. Once complete, processes such as issuing new priority ration cards and amending existing ration card data will continue seamlessly, addressing the backlog of pending applications effectively.

Ration card holders wait for their ration rice and kerosene at PDS shop in Bengaluru (File photo)

> **To ensure monitoring and supervision, nodal officers have been appointed at the divisional level by the department**
>
> –KH Muniyappa, Minister

Strict action on misuse of BPL cards

The government will take strict action against the misuse of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards and ensure proper distribution based on accurate data. Responding to questions raised in the Legislative Council regarding the cancellation of BPL ration cards, Muniyappa assured that the state government would gather comprehensive data at the gram panchayat level and ensure BPL cards are distributed only to those who are truly eligible. According to the minister, approximately 65% to 75% of the state's population lives below the poverty line. He reiterated that the government would not allow any injustice to be done to these underprivileged individuals and that ineligible people would be removed from the BPL list. He further clarified that around 20% of the existing BPL cardholders are actually eligible for the APL (Above Poverty Line) card, and these discrepancies would be rectified as soon as possible in accordance with the rules. Muniyappa assured that eligible BPL cards would not be canceled, and in case of any inadvertent cancellations, the affected individuals would be reissued their cards.

Residents and Panchayat to fix 3-km pothole-ridden road

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Frustrated by years of inaction and worsening road conditions, residents of Chikkanayakanahalli, Doddakannelli, and nearby areas have joined hands with the Halnayakanahalli Panchayat to fix a 3 kilometre stretch of road connecting Doddakannelli to Chikkanayakanahalli.

For years, the road had been riddled with potholes, causing severe inconvenience and safety hazards for residents and daily commuters. Despite repeated follow-ups with local authorities, including the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), no action was taken. However, under the leadership of Halnayakanahalli Panchayat president, Savitha Babu Reddy and her husband, Babu Reddy, along with support from residents and social workers, repairs are finally underway.

"Earlier, we had to take the initiative, collect money, and get the work done ourselves. Now, the panchayat president and her husband are coming forward to address the issue," said Arif Mudal, a resident of Chikkanayakanahalli.

The road comes under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL), which manages infrastructure in certain village areas. However, with no immediate support from KRIDL, the panchayat and residents decided to take matters into their own hands.

> **Residents and Panchayat are using wet mix materials to patch up the potholes temporarily**

The team is using wet mix materials to patch up the potholes temporarily. They are also in discussions with builders to fund asphalting, aiming to complete the work within a week.

"So far, we have repaired 1.5 km of the road. We completed this stretch on Friday evening. The remaining 1.5 km will be finished by Monday night," said a resident involved in the repair efforts.

Citizen Movement East Bengaluru, local group, has been following up on the issue with the MLA.

"We hope that this collaborative effort will provide relief and ensure smoother commutes for thousands of people. However, it emphasises the need for long-term solutions," added Mudal.

IN BRIEF

₹4.98 lakh in fines: 'No-entry' offence rules roost

A special traffic enforcement drive conducted by the Traffic Police on Monday from 12 pm to 4 pm, resulted in the booking of 986 cases for various traffic violations and the collection of ₹4.98 lakh in fines. The initiative aimed to enhance road safety by addressing persistent traffic rule violations.

The most significant number of cases booked were of 'No Entry' violations, with 379 offenders fined a total of ₹1.92 lakh. Violations against 'One Way' regulations followed, with 260 cases and ₹1.31 lakh in fines collected. Triple riding, a major safety concern, resulted in 50 cases and fines amounting to ₹25,000.

Additional offences recorded during the drive included 156 cases of 'No Parking', leading to ₹78,500 in fines, and 82 instances of 'Footpath Parking', which accrued ₹41,500 in penalties. Riding on footpaths, another hazardous practice, resulted in 59 cases and ₹29,500 in fines.

The traffic police said that such special drives are part of their ongoing efforts to curb violations and ensure safer roads for all commuters. Citizens are urged to cooperate with authorities by following traffic regulations and avoiding practices that endanger others. The traffic police have assured that these enforcement drives will continue. **BMB**

Online marketplace loses Rs 1.08 cr to refund con

In yet another instance of online fraud, the cybercrime police have registered a case against unidentified individuals for defrauding Myntra of ₹1.08 crore by exploiting the company's return policy. The fraud was uncovered during an internal audit.

This follows last week's case where the Central Crime Branch (CCB) booked three individuals for manipulating Meesho's return policy, causing losses of ₹5.5 crore.

According to the complaint filed by Sardar MS, an enforcement officer with Myntra Designs Pvt. Ltd, over 5,000 orders for apparel and branded shoes were placed by various customers between March and June this year in Bengaluru and surrounding areas. The orders, paid for via UPI and cash-on-delivery (COD), were successfully delivered. However, fraudulent refund claims were subsequently raised using fake bills, citing different reasons across multiple categories, with refunds being directed to online accounts.

The police have registered a case under charges of cheating, impersonation, and relevant sections of the IT Act. **BMB**

'Need to be strict about road rage'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out to confront him. "The driver launched into a torrent of abuse, blaming me for crossing a bus stop, though he had overtaken me recklessly," Pramod explained. "When I questioned his actions, he raised his hand as if to hit me. Despite his aggression, I maintained my composure, reminding him that such behavior endangered not only my life but also his passengers' safety."

A bystander, who happened to also be a cyclist, captured the heated exchange on video.

The video has since been shared with authorities, as Pramod seeks intervention to foster harmony between road users. He has also registered a complaint to DEO Bengaluru Urban TN Krishnamurthy, KAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Grievance Redressal Officer, BMTC Complaints, the transport department and the Bicycle Mayor of Bengaluru.

"We share the roads, we should be on road in harmony and not setting precedents like this that would deter other aware citizens from taking up cycling," he wrote.

Bicycle Mayor Sathya Shankaran told BM that there are two critical steps to address road safety concerns. "First, all relevant departments, including the Road Safety Cell,

Transport, Traffic Police, and BMTC Corporation, must collaborate on campaigns to promote road safety and harmonious coexistence on our roads. Bengaluru is a city that attracts people from across the country who want to explore its beauty by walking or cycling, but the current conditions make these activities unsafe."

He reminded everyone that Road Safety Month is approaching in January. "The government must send a clear message that road rage will not be tolerated. Bengaluru already ranks as the second-highest city in the country for road fatalities, and without decisive action, this situation will only worsen.

Pedestrians and cyclists must feel safe, and larger vehicles, like buses and trucks, carry a greater responsibility to protect other road users. It is time to embed the message of safety and mutual respect deeply. If we fail to act now and enforce strict measures, we risk a crisis on our roads," he warned.

Bengaluru has an ample number of cyclists, with several of them being students. During a Suraksha program hosted by Bengaluru City Police on Saturday, a student asked the Commissioner about safety for cyclists. "My main concern is that I don't know the specific rules for cycling on the road. Most people ask us to give way, and even after we do, they keep shouting 'side, side' and push us completely off the road. We often don't know where or how to navigate safely.

Another issue is that vehicles approach us suddenly from behind without honking, leaving us no time to react. If they push us aside, it's almost like a lost cause. On top of that, we often feel disrespected as cyclists, even when traffic police are present."

To this, the Commissioner responded with the admission that unlike other countries where cycling is rapidly gaining popularity, the respect for cyclists in India is lacking. He said that things are beginning to change.

"More people are now seeing cycling not just as a fitness activity but as a practical mode of transport, like the student who cycles to the Metro station and continues her journey on foot.

This is the essence of multi-modal transport that every city must adopt. Not everyone can rely on private vehicles, and our roads simply cannot accommodate such volumes of traffic. Cities like Amsterdam and others around the world have set a wonderful example of integrating cycling into everyday life. Hopefully, one day, we will see more bicycles than private vehicles on our roads," he said.

Shami's all-round heroics takes Bengal to quarter-finals

Mohammed Shami starred for Bengal with the bat and the ball in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Chandigarh at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday. Bengal went through to the quarter-finals with a narrow three-run victory over Chandigarh. Apart from Shami's all-round efforts, seamer Sayan Ghosh's four-wicket haul ripped out Chandigarh's batting setup to lift Bengal to victory.

It was Shami's unbeaten quick-fire cameo at the end which propelled Bengal to a respectable 159/9 run total. He came in to bat at number 10 and straightaway opened his arms.

Shami faced 17 deliveries, picked up three fours, and smoked two sixes. The 34-year-old returned with a score of 32*, his highest in the T20 format.

Bengal's 159/9 was set by Karan Lal, who top-scored in the match with a 33-run knock. Bengal's total was buttressed by Writtick Chatterjee's 38 and Pradipta Pramanik's valuable 40-run contribution. In reply, Shami rattled Chandigarh's top order early as he sent Arslan Khan back to the dugout for a golden duck. It was Raj Bawa's 32 that fuelled Chandigarh's chase, which eventually brought down the equation to 20 runs in the final two overs, with three wickets in hand. **ANI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Girik Githansh CN S/o Sh. Nagarjuna K V, R/o Koladevi Village and Post, Mulabagal Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka 563131, I have changed my minor Sons's name from Girik Githansh Chaithranagarjuna to and he shall hereafter be Known as Girik Githansh Nagarjuna for all future purposes.

I, MOHAMMED ZABEULLA B I, R/a. #60, Near Masjid-Noor, Bettadasanapura Begur Bangalore -68. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED ZABIULLA Vide affidavit dated 09.12.2024 Sworn before Notary G Dayananda Bangalore

I, Sailen Mahato S/o, Dinesh Mahato R/o No 63-64 1st Main Road 6th Cross Rajagopalnagar Peenya Small Industries Bengaluru 560058 have changed my name to Shailen Mahato for all purposes.

I Wahab Ubedulla Khan S/O, Wahab Khan R/o No 301 3rd Floor Divya Jyothi Enclave 12 Papaiah Garden H D Deve Gowda Road R T Nagar Post Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Ubedulla Khan .

I, Vasoya Trupeshkumar Ghanshyambhai S/o Ghanshyambhai Madhubhai Vasoya R/o B404, B M Homes, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to Vasoya Trupeshkumar Ghanashyambhai Affidavit Dt.09/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, GEETHA JAYARAM GOWDA R/at No.187, G- Floor, 9th Block, Sir. M Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Mallathahalli Bengaluru-560056 have Changed my name to GEETHA WILLIAMS vide affidavit dated: 26/11/2024 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, RABIYA BASRI, R/a .#3437/2R, Tippunagar Bangarpet-563114. I, have Changed my minor daughter name SAYEEDA SUMAIYA FATHIMA to SYEEDA SUMAIYA FATHIMA, Vide affidavit, dated 04/12/2024 Sworn before Notary: G Dayananda. Bangalore-

I, Nawaz Syed Sad, R/at No.05, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Opp. S.K Garden, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Syed Nawaz, affidavit dt: 06.12.2024 Notary R. Basavaraja, B.lore.

I, Mousin Taj Nawaz, R/at No.05, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Opp. S.K Garden, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Umme Salma, affidavit dt: 06.12.2024 Notary R. Basavaraja, B.lore.

I, Venkatram Pradhan Aswathiah S/o, Pradhan Seetharamiaiah Aswathiah R/o No 1/41 14th Cross 16th Main Padmanabhanagar, Banshankari 2 Nd Stage Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to Pradhan Venkatram for all purposes.

WE, Padma Sanjay M D and Pranoti Padma Sanjay R/o 1304, Anagha Peridot, 17/1A, Kempapura, Hebbal, Bengaluru 560024 have changed my minor son mame from Mayank to Mayank Padma Sanjay Affidavit Dt.09/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Soful Afnan Nawaz, R/at No.05, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Opp. S.K Garden, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Soful Afnan, affidavit dt: 06.12.2024 Notary R. Basavaraja, B.lore.

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I, Uma Shankari, r/o 4018, Sai Nandana Gardenia, Gottigere Lake Road, Bangalore 5600083, have changed my name from Uma Shankari Shiva Shanmugam to Uma Shankari Kumar.

I Manasvi Deshmukh D/O, Sameer Deshmukh R/o No 176 2nd A Cross 7th Block Bda Layout Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Manasvi Sameer Deshmukh.

I, Janaki K W/O, M N Chandrashekhara R/o M-304, Saketh Hillside Apartments, Gurudutta Layout, Hosakerehalli, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085 have changed my name to Janaki K S for all purposes.

I, Satish Koogu s/o Shailayya Koogu R/o #2/3 Hamsdwani Shri Venkateshwara Lyt Hagadur Colony Whitefield Post B'luru-560066 have changed my name to Satish Shrishailayya Koogu for all purposes.

I, Dinesh Singh Shyam Singh S/O Shyam Singh Dhusad R/O D 1708, Purva Westend, Kudlu Gate,Gb Playa,Bengaluru-560 068 have changed my name to Dinesh Singh for all purposes

I, Priya Vaijanath Rayannavar have changed the name from Priyanka to Priya R/o Flat # 101, RS Nest pt, Raghavendra Layout, Gubbalala, Bangalore 560061 vide Affidavit dated 03/12/2024 before Notary Public / Belagavi.

I, ANITHA NAGENDRA, Residing at No 193, 29th Main, 10th Cross, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage,Bangalore-560076, Have changed my name to ANITHA A, vide affidavit dated 09/12/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Mohammed Kaysier S/O, Akbar R/o No.28 17th Cross A P J Abdul Kalam Road Govindpura, Bengaluru - 560045 have changed my name to Mohammed Khaiser.

LOST & FOUND

I R Sasi Kumar S/o C Rathinam BMP no 5, N E Layout G M Palya Bangalore 560075 Have lost my Original Diploma Certificate Regd No 073320-6, LR no. 1371383/2024

LOST original degree certificate (2012) & marksheet of Rupanshi Joshi, Roll number 0804584019, issued in HBTI, Kanpur, UP.

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Dec: 11, 15*, 16, 18**, 21, 22, 22*, 24, 25*, 26, 29 Jan: 12*, 16, 19*, 21, 26
KERALA SPL./ OOTY KODAIKANAL* 7/5* DAYS
Dec: 22, 22*, 24, 25, 29, 29* Jan: 5, 12, 19, 26
SHIRDI NASIK*/PANCH JYOTHIRLINGA 7 DAYS
Dec: 15, 21*, 22, 28*, 29 Jan: 5* 6, 12*, 13, 19*, 20, 26*, 27
ANDHRA PRADESH/HYDERABAD 10/6* DAYS
Dec: 11, 15*, 21, 22*, 25, 29* Jan: 1, 3* 5, 10*, 11, 17*, 21
GOA SPECIAL*/NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN 5*/4 DAYS
Dec: 16, 25* 23, 30
COASTAL KARNATAKA 4 DAYS
Dec: 11, 21 Jan: 5, 12, 19, 26

BBMP's hearses on their last legs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from CV Raman Nagar to Kalpalli crematorium while the similar service offered by the BBMP is supposed to be available at a few 100 rupees.

Service centre drawbacks

On an average, the hearse van service centre at Halasuru Referral Hospital receives eight to nine requests per day to provide vans to transport mortal remains of the deceased. "We have no basic amenities here. We have to wait in a small and dingy room on the hospital premises. It is said the hospital management wants to demolish it to make an entrance for the new hospital block that is under construction," said another driver.

KAUSHIK JA

Coming down heavily on the BBMP officials for not replacing the old hearse vans and providing alternative shelter for the drivers, BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru, said that many people, who want to use the hearse van service to transport bodies of their near and dear ones, struggled a lot when the services were stopped. "It is very difficult for the poor and lower-middle class families to engage an ambulance or a private hearse van to transport bodies to burial ground or crematorium as they have to pay thousands of rupees towards transport charges," said Chandran.

He said that the hospital administration plans to demolish the existing shelter of the hearse van centre without making alternative arrangements.

When questioned, BBMP Health Officer Dr Latha said that she has already sent a proposal to the BBMP higher authorities to procure new hearse vans. "I submitted the proposal last month," said Dr Latha.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health and Animal Husbandry) Vikas Suralkar Kishor said that these issues are supposed to be handled at health officer level at individual zones. "I will get it checked," the Special Commissioner said.

HEALTH TIP: A handful of nuts as a mid-morning snack can make a big difference when it comes to managing weight

Coconut oil helps boost metabolism and thus aids in a weight-loss journey

BangaloreMirror | 9
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
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GENTLE AS A ROSE

How to make rose water at home: Benefits, steps, and uses

Rosewater is a daily essential in every South Asian household. This eternal romantic and fragrant flower has many benefits for our overall well-being. This is the secret of the beauty of the many generations before us. Today, we can still see the elders of our family use rose water for most of their skin and healthcare concerns. Its light texture makes it ideal for daily multipurpose use.

With more younger women looking out for natural skincare, there has been an uprising in the market for products with rose water. With less to no processed ingredients, rose water is not only great for our skin but is also good for the environment.

What Is Rose Water?

The ever-refreshing and fragrant rose water is a flavoured liquid that is created by distilling rose petals. Originating from Iran, rose water is known for its highly beneficial properties for skin and hair. The perfect multipurpose product rose water is great for cooking, skincare, hair care and even perfume. Its hydrating and soothing properties make it a staple must in most households.

Rose Water is a natural astringent that balances and helps restore the skin's PH levels and gives your skin a fresh and even look. One of the most iconic historical figures who was known for her beauty, Cleopatra, was known to use the refreshing spritz in her skincare in ancient Egypt. It is safe to say that rose water is queen-approved.

Benefits of Rose Water for Skin

1. Helps Soothe Skin Irritation
Rosewater has anti-inflammatory properties that can help reduce redness, irritation, acne and eczema.

2. Controls Excess Oil And Maintains pH Balance
Rose water has a mid pH level of 5.5 that can help restore your skin's natural pH, compared to regular soaps and cleansers. Maintaining the pH level will help your skin control excess oil and reduce bacterial infections.

3. Is Highly Hydrating
Rose water is a holy grail essential for everyone with dehydrated skin. It helps your skin be hydrated, refreshed and moisturised without causing any kind of irritation or reaction.

4. Heals wounds and scars
If you are prone to injuries, this is the perfect solution for you. Rosewater has high antibacterial properties that can help heal scars, cuts, wounds and discolouration.

5. Has Anti Ageing Properties
Rose water is rich in antioxidants that can help strengthen skin cells and regenerate skin tissues which can help in reducing fine lines and wrinkles.

6. Helps in Cleaning the pores
Perfect for sensitive skin rose water possesses an astringent that helps deep clean your pores and tone your skin.

7. Treats Mild Scalp Infections And Reduces Dandruff
Rose water's nourishing and moisturising properties are great for hair care. Incorporating it into your hair care can help soothe mild scalp infections and get rid of dandruff. It is also a great conditioner and helps in hair growth.

8. Reduces Under-Eye Puffiness
Late-night binge-watching has got your eyes all puffed up? We've got a solution for you. Rosewater is great for reducing puffiness and can give the ideal hydration and cooling effect for your under-eye region. Just take a cotton pad and mist your rose water on it and carefully place the pads on your eye. Leave it for 5 minutes and you can immediately spot the refreshing glow.

How To Make Rose Water At Home?

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes
Ingredients:

- Organic Roses (6-7 stems)
- Distilled water
- Spray Bottle

Steps To Make Rose Water:

- Remove the petals from the roses and collect them in a container. Then, clean the petals with lukewarm water to remove any pesticides and residue.
- Add the cleaned petals into a large cooking pot and add distilled water, just enough to cover the petals. Make sure to not add too much water as it can dilute the rose water.
- Over low - medium heat, boil the water to a simmer and cover it with a lid.
- Let the mixture simmer for 25-30 minutes or until the petals have lost their colour and have turned into pale pink.
- Once the rose water is ready, strain the mixture and separate the petals from the water.
- Once it's cooled down, pour the rose water into a Glass Jar and store it in a cool and dry place.
- If you want to use your rose water as a toner, you can put the mixture into a spray bottle for an easier and effortless application.

Ways of using rose water

1. Face Mask
Adding some rose water to your face mask can give you that extra hydration. Mix two tablespoons of rose water into your favourite face mask and mix it with the remaining contents. Apply the face mask as you normally would.

2. Hair Mask
Rosewater is great for your scalp and can do wonders for your luscious locks. Just spray rosewater on your freshly washed hair and top it up with your favourite conditioner. This can help soothe your scalp from any irritation and can give your hair a natural shine.

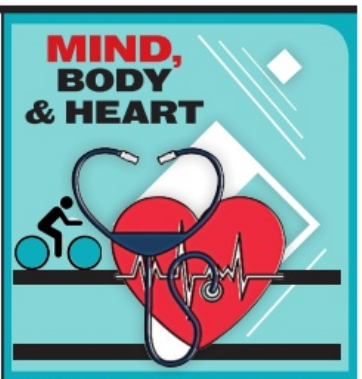
3. Facial Toner
For every skincare lover, rose water is the best source of hydration and antioxidants for a healthy glow. Suitable for all skin types, this spritz can easily refresh your skin at any time of the day. Use it after your cleanser and

immediately top it up with your favourite moisturiser to lock in the moisture.

4. Fragrance Mist
Natural fragrance for the absolute win! With its heavenly scent, rose water works as a great alternative to natural fragrances. This won't stay your favourite outfit or cause discolouration and can give the best refreshing start for your day.

5. Pillow Mist
Other than the great skin benefits, the scent of rose is great to calm your mind and can help you relax from your hectic work. You can spray some rose water on your pillow, which can help you get a good night's sleep. This will help you relax easily and not react to your skin like most other pillow mists.

—Femina



All you need to know about...

Sugary drinks

Sickeningly sweet
A large-scale Swedish study on Monday suggested that drinking sweetened drinks can significantly increase your risk of serious cardiovascular diseases like stroke, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation.

Worst form of sugar
The study also showed that eating too much-added sugar can increase the risk of stroke or aneurysm. However, limited consumption of treats can be safe. "Consuming sweet drinks was worse for your health than any other form of sugar," noted the study published in the journal Frontiers in Public Health.

Liquid danger
Suzanne Janzi, a doctoral candidate at Lund University said that the sweetened beverages, which contain liquid sugars, "typically provide less satiety than solid forms." Janzi said this makes people feel less satiated "potentially leading to overconsumption". Moreover, unlike treats that are "often enjoyed in social settings or special occasions, sweetened beverages might be consumed more regularly."

How it affects heart
To understand how sugar consumption affects cardiovascular disease risk, the team collected data from two major studies with a sample of 69,705 participants.
The study evaluated the link between honey, treats like a pastry, or sweetened beverages like fizzy drinks -- and seven cardiovascular diseases: two different types of stroke, heart attacks, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, atrial fibrillation, and aortic stenosis. During the 10 years of follow-up, 25,739 participants were diagnosed with cardiovascular disease. High intake of sugar in general raised the risk of ischemic stroke and abdominal aortic aneurysm. It also spiked the risk of heart failure in participants with a normal BMI. Notably, they found that the highest risks of a negative health outcome arose in the lowest intake category for treats, suggesting that "extremely low sugar intake may not be necessary or beneficial for cardiovascular health."

—IANS

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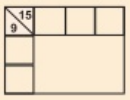
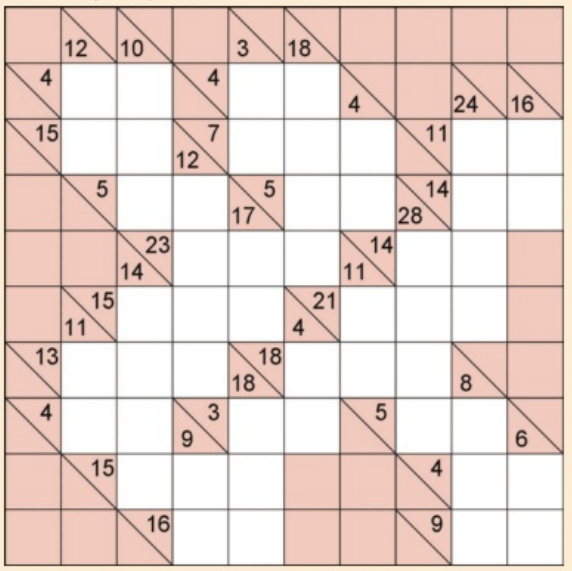
Kakuro

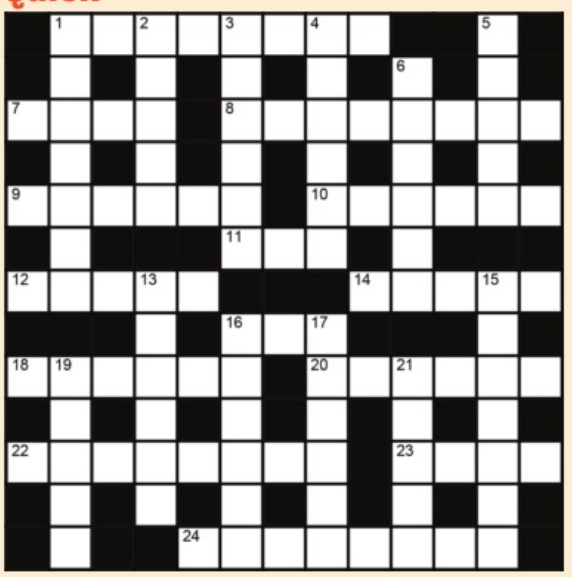
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Be cautious (4,4)
7 Swanky car (4)
8 Large block of stone (8)
9 Japanese number puzzle (6)
10 Emend (6)
11 ___ for : be punished for? (3)
12 Suspicious or watchful (5)
14 Packs tightly (5)
16 State on our north-west border (3)
18 Thinner (6)
20 Eleventh letter of Greek alphabet (6)
22 Longfellow's brave (8)
23 Worry (4)
24 Hardens or becomes bonelike (8)

DOWN

1 Testimonial (7)
2 Old capital city of Japan (5)
3 Rise to surface (4,2)
4 Come to an end (3,3)
5 Lugs along (5)
6 Dickens' ___ Twist (6)
13 Fame (6)
15 Infuriates or enrages (7)
16 Fireplaces (6)
17 The opposite of acid (6)
19 Banishment (5)
21 Plain clothes not a uniform; civvies (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS P

IYBIRY JREJPK BQYHFB ZXY SJZZYH EXYA ZXYP JZZYSIZ FYLYIZGBA.

Linemaro

If you were a pill, I'd overdose

Mindchow

Some people never go crazy. What truly horrible lives they must lead

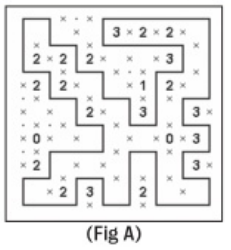
Joke of the day

I'm a good guy. I download all my music legally.
But I stole my iPod.

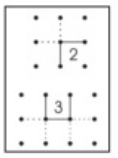
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



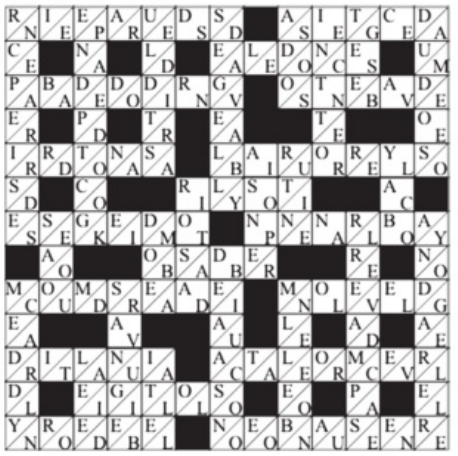
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

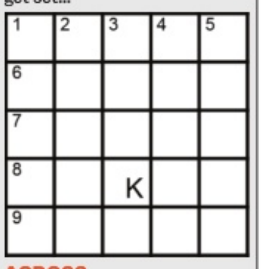
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Capes; 6 Let ex;
7 Tital; 8 Kern a;
9 Gable

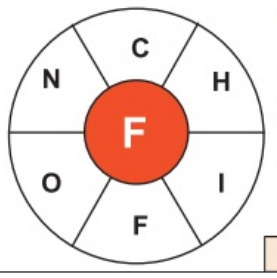
DOWN

1 Tangs; 2 Patel;
3 I lake; 4 Cel be;
5 Taxer

Mensapuzzle

Which single-digit number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			5	8			4	6
3						5		
5					6			7
8	3			1				2
	1		2		8		5	
2				6			1	8
7			9					4
		2						1
9	4			2	3			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

4 6 7 8

Medium = 3

2 3 4 7

Hard = 5

2 5 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

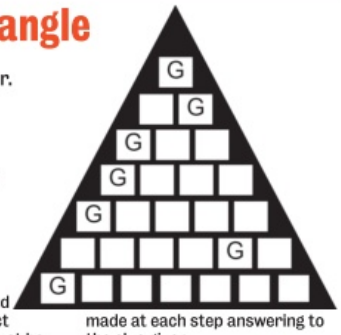
Differences: 1. Man is thinner. 2. Woman's leg is moved. 3. Windowsill is missing. 4. Bottom of apron is different. 5. Bench is missing. 6. Hat is different.

Riddler

Four words can be made from the letters below. What are the words? S E N T C A

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 For example, abbr.
3 Jewel
4 Microbe
5 Ingrained dirt
6 Desert illusion
7 Facial contortion

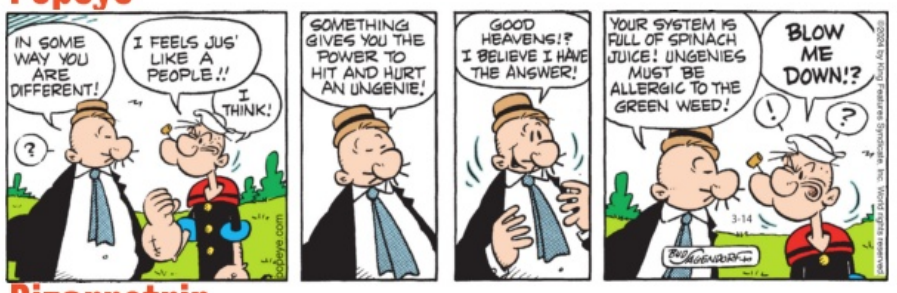


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

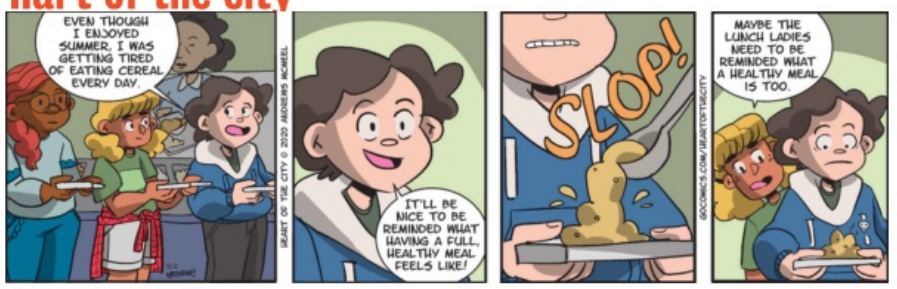
Popeye


IN SOME WAY YOU ARE DIFFERENT!
I FEELS JUS' LIKE A PEOPLE.!!
I THINK!
?
SOMETHING GIVES YOU THE POWER TO HIT AND HURT AN UNGENIE!
GOOD HEAVENS!? I BELIEVE I HAVE THE ANSWER!
YOUR SYSTEM IS FULL OF SPINACH JUICE! UNGENIES MUST BE ALLERGIC TO THE GREEN WEED!
BLOW ME DOWN!?
!
?
3-14

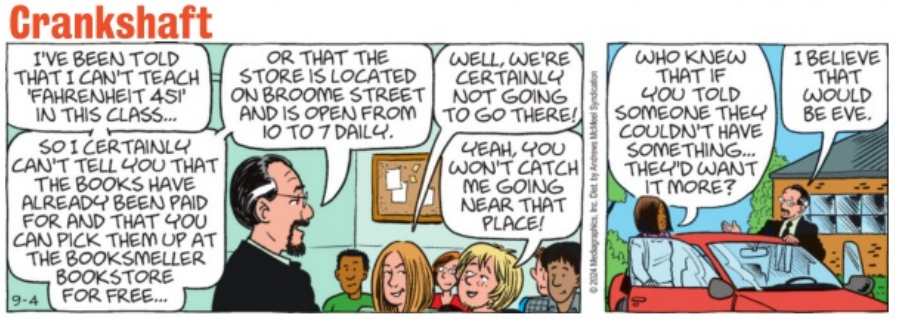
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


EVEN THOUGH I ENJOYED SUMMER, I WAS GETTING TIRED OF EATING CEREAL EVERY DAY.
HART OF THE CITY © 2020 ANDREW HORNEL
IT'LL BE NICE TO BE REMINDED WHAT HAVING A FULL, HEALTHY MEAL FEELS LIKE!
SLOP!
@DOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
MAYBE THE LUNCH LADIES NEED TO BE REMINDED WHAT A HEALTHY MEAL IS TOO.

Crankshaft


I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT I CAN'T TEACH 'FAHRENHEIT 451' IN THIS CLASS...
SO I CERTAINLY CAN'T TELL YOU THAT THE BOOKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PAID FOR AND THAT YOU CAN PICK THEM UP AT THE BOOKSMELLER BOOKSTORE FOR FREE...
OR THAT THE STORE IS LOCATED ON BROOME STREET AND IS OPEN FROM 10 TO 7 DAILY.
WELL, WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO GO THERE!
YEAH, YOU WON'T CATCH ME GOING NEAR THAT PLACE!
9-4
WHO KNEW THAT IF YOU TOLD SOMEONE THEY COULDN'T HAVE SOMETHING... THEY'D WANT IT MORE?
I BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE EVE.
© 2024 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel happy. Old health issues concerning elders may be resolved. Money that was previously stuck might be recovered, improving your financial health. Those in jobs might consider changing roles to seek a promotion, and job seekers could secure employment with the help of a friend's reference.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may use your creativity at work or home, enhancing your social status. You could control unnecessary spending, boosting your savings. Lovebirds may receive family support for marriage plans. Students might hear positive news regarding academics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may enjoy your work and might receive a promotion as a result of your hard work. Helping those in need could increase your social respect. However, overworking your mind might lead to fatigue. Due to a heavy workload, you may miss or arrive late to a family gathering. Your parents' health may improve.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may focus on gaining knowledge and understanding the value of intellectual assets. Controlling your temper may help you complete tasks smoothly. You might experience steady earnings, providing comfort in your workflow. Be cautious before making new investments in assets. Spending on loved ones is likely, and lovebirds may enjoy happy moments together.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel relaxed after resolving a messy situation. Your inner strength could help you implement challenging decisions in the family business, leading to growth. Helping those in need may enhance your social reputation. Students might gain clarity in choosing their career paths.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, projects that were previously stalled may start progressing automatically. You might feel satisfied at work and plan a short work-related trip. A visit to a religious place could help maintain your inner strength. Guidance from elders might lead you toward achieving your goals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull and unable to enjoy the moment. You might rush to complete tasks, leading to silly mistakes. Your efficiency could slow down, affecting your daily work and delaying projects, which may impact your professional life. Before making important decisions, seek advice from elders.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you might feel dull and experience health issues like anxiety and restlessness. It is advised to postpone major investments in business or real estate. Avoid rushing while driving and long-distance travel. Meditation could help you achieve sound sleep.

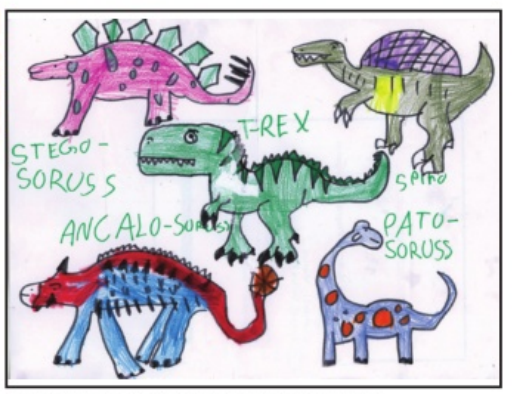
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you might feel dull and face health issues. It's advised to keep a calm mind and carefully read documents before signing them. Recovering money could be challenging, and adventure trips should be avoided. Students are encouraged to study in depth for success. You might also feel attracted to occult subjects.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel energetic and focused, allowing you to complete tasks quickly. Subordinates might support you in initiating new projects, which could bring profits in the near future. Short family-related trips are possible. Job seekers might receive good news about a position.

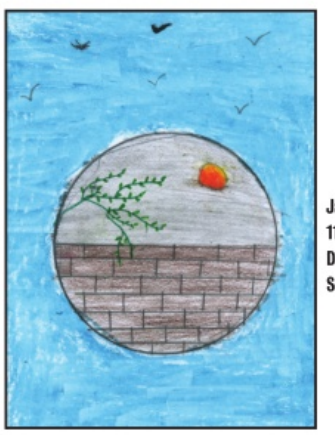
Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, blessings from elders may bring happiness. Investments could yield profits, and losses might turn into gains. Your savings may boost your bank balance, and you might plan to invest in your children's future. Health problems related to your throat, teeth, ears, or nose may be resolved. Enjoying delicious food at home is likely.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy at home, buying artifacts or creative items to renovate your house, enhancing your social status. Investments in property or fixed assets are likely. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, strengthening your emotional bond. Singles might hear good news about marriage.

KIDZONE



Agasthya Ajay Murthy, 6 years, National Public School



Jayashree, 11 years, Divine Mercy School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{8}+\sqrt{9}\times 9^{.5} = 4$
$2+3\times\sqrt{9} = 11$
$2+3^2 = 11$

BULL'S EYE
CHIFFON, coffin, coif, finch

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

RIDDLER
1. ENACTS
2. ASCENT
3. STANCE
4. SECANT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
3. Work through the diagram in columns. The value in the centre of each column equals the difference between the sum of the top 2 numbers and the bottom two numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE
People always overdo the matter when they attempt deception.

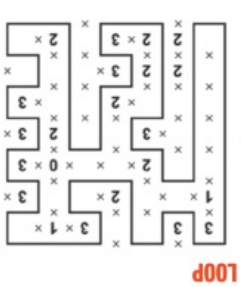
SUDOKU

9	4	1	6	2	3	8	7	5
6	5	2	8	4	7	9	3	1
7	8	3	9	5	1	2	6	4
2	7	9	3	6	5	4	1	8
4	1	6	2	9	8	7	5	3
8	3	5	7	1	4	6	9	2
5	9	8	4	3	6	1	2	7
3	6	4	1	7	2	5	8	9
1	2	7	5	8	9	3	4	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, EG, Gem, Germ, Grime, Mirage, Grimace.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 + 7 − 6 = 13
Medium
3 x 4 − 2 − 7 = 3
Hard
3 x 5 − 2 − 8 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Full scope

Kajal Kunder is excited about the opportunity to act in Bilichukki Hallihakki. The belle from Mangaluru has not only got a prominent character but also shares equal screen space with the hero in the movie. The team of Bilichukki Hallihakki unveiled the poster of the movie revealing the name of the heroine recently.

Kajal, who has also acted in Marathi and Tulu movies, apart from acting in Kannada movies Bond Ravi, Peppe, and Maaya Kannadi, said that she appears in all scenes along with the hero in Bilichukki Hallihakki. "I play Kavitha in the movie which is about understanding and misunderstanding between a couple. Mahesh Gowda plays the lead, which is of a man who has vitiligo. My fans can see me in every frame of the movie," said Kajal.

Apart from playing the lead, Mahesh has also directed it. "I got selected as the heroine after going through the process of auditions. I am very happy to get this opportunity. Though I have acted in Kannada movies before, Bilichukki Hallihakki gives me the maximum screen space," she said.

Ready for release

Vijay Raghavendra-starrer Rippen Swaamy is set to arrive in theaters next month. The movie has got a UA certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification recently and the movie's team is busy with the promotional activities. The movie is directed by Kishore Moodabidre known for his film Malgudi Days.

"The character played by Vijay Raghavendra is unique. He has acted in around 60 Kannada movies but none of them showed him in a rugged look. In Rippen Swaamy, his character has two shades. He is the hero as well as the villain. It will be a treat for Vijay Raghavendra's fans to see him in this role," said Moodabidre.

The director said the movie explores the other side of Malnad. "Malnad is known as an area that receives more rain and also known for greenery. The movie is about incidents that take place at Sannakoppa village. It is a fictional village," he said.

Ashwini Chandrasekhar, who has acted in Kannada movies Octopus and Endendigu and Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam movies, plays the female lead in the film. The movie also features Prakash Thuminad, Vajradeep Jain, Yamuna Srinidhi, Mohan, Krishnamurthy Kavaththar, Prabhakar Kundar, Ranjan Shetty, and Santosh Shetty.

The movie was shot in and around Koppa, Kalasa, and Balehonnur.

Red carpet date

Ranbir Kapoor poses with Hollywood actress Olivia Wilde at Red Sea film fest

Bollywood heartthrob Ranbir Kapoor may have made a solo appearance at the Red Sea International Film Festival, but while on the red carpet, the actor managed to find himself a date in Hollywood actress and director Olivia Wilde.

RK had all eyes on him when he arrived on the red carpet in a bright red ethnic suit and shades. While walking the carpet, the actor was seen interacting with a long line of fans eagerly waiting to get a photo with the star. While he was at it, he was also seen signing autographs and greeting his fans.

The star-studded event, held on Sunday, saw him lining up for a photo call with the press. While waiting his turn, the actor was seen interacting with Olivia Wilde who stunned in an off-shoulder white gown with a gold bracelet.

While waiting their turn, the two were seen chatting away and later proceeding to walk the red carpet together and posing for photos. The two stars stood casually with their arms around each other and put on their best smiles for the click.

Ranbir was among the Indian lineup of actors and directors attending the festival. Announcing his participation in the festival, the festival's official page wrote, "Bollywood's most celebrated actors, Ranbir Kapoor is known for his remarkable versatility and his ability to play compelling characters that have left a lasting impact on Indian cinema captivating audiences with his unforgettable performances in his films."

While there, the actor sat down for a candid discussion on his films where he revealed that the next instalment of 'Animal' will go on floors in 2027. In the meanwhile, the actor has Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana' and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love and War'. —ETimes

Together, it is

Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan recently attended a wedding in Mumbai, delighting their fans. Photos of the couple with friends have been shared online. The event was also graced by other celebrities like Hrithik Roshan, Saba Azad, Sachin Tendulkar, and hockey legend Dhanraj Pillai. Their appearance helped ease ongoing divorce rumors.

Shwetha Pai, the daughter of renowned radiologist Dr. Bhujang Pai and philanthropist Sangeetha Pai, recently married Badal Thukral. At the wedding, Aishwarya and Abhishek made a joint appearance, while Hrithik attended with his girlfriend Saba, with his father Rakesh Roshan and uncle Rajesh Roshan.

Hrithik attended a recent wedding in a stylish black T-shirt paired with a blazer and pants, while Saba complimented him in a black outfit. The event was also attended by other celebrities, such as Jeetendra, Aditya Roy Kapur, and Vidya Balan.

Aishwarya and Abhishek recently attended a wedding where they twinned in stylish black outfits, delighting fans on social media. The actress wore a stunning black ethnic suit adorned with intricate gold details, while Abhishek complemented her look in a matching bandh gala. —ETimes

Striking beauty

Check out how Aditi Rao Hydari has perfected the art of the bold and beautiful in fashion

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Star & baby spotted

YOGEN SHAH

Deepika Padukone was recently seen at Kalina airport with her daughter, Dua Padukone Singh, in a heartwarming family moment that captured the attention of fans and media alike.

This outing marks one of the rare public appearances of the actress with her newborn since she and husband Ranveer Singh announced their daughter's name in a touching Diwali post. In the announcement, they described Dua as "the answer to our prayers," reflecting their joy and gratitude.

In the photo, Deepika can be seen holding the little one close to her chest as she comes out from the private airport at Kalina. Dressed in an orange outfit, the actress didn't stop to pose for the paparazzi. —ETimes